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# County of Los Angeles

## CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

May 7, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

### STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

#### Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

**SJR 7 (Karnette)**, as introduced on February 20, 2003, requests the President and Congress to maintain the present Federal restrictions on truck lengths and weights included in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), and resist any changes in subsequent legislation. Existing law prohibits states from authorizing increases in truck lengths and weights, including longer combination vehicles such as triple trailer trucks. TEA-21 is scheduled to expire this year, and Congress is currently considering reauthorization. A recent Senate Transportation Committee report notes that the United States Department of Transportation found that double and triple trailer trucks pose a significantly increased risk of fatal crashes involving occupants of passenger vehicles. The Department of Health Services Emergency Medical Services Agency indicates that they all too often see death and serious injury resulting from accidents involving tractor trailer trucks. **Consistent with prior Board action to oppose proposals allowing the broader use of large combination vehicles such as triple trailer trucks on interstate highways, our Sacramento advocates will seek passage of SJR 7.**

SJR 7 is supported by the California State Association of Counties, California State Firefighters' Association, League of California Cities, the Automobile Club of Southern California, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff. There is no registered opposition. SJR 7 passed the Senate Transportation Committee by a vote of 8 to 3 on May 6, 2003.

#### Status of County-Interest Legislation

**County-opposed AB 1151 (Dymally)**, which would have overturned the decision of *Terrell R. v. County of Los Angeles (2002)*, was amended on May 1, 2003 to make

legislative findings and declare Legislative intent to abrogate the holding in *Terrell R. v. County of Los Angeles* (2002), to the extent that the decision affected liability or immunity for injuries to children in protective custody, and to reinstate the judicial interpretation of such liability and immunity as it existed prior to that decision.

The language in AB 1151 continues to be problematic because it could open the door to an argument that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) was responsible for foster care injuries. Existing law immunizes counties and their social workers from liability for discretionary placement decisions and the Court in *Terrell R.* reaffirmed existing law by concluding that in this case, the County and social worker were not civilly liable for injuries occurring to a child while in foster care. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will continue to oppose AB 1151.** This measure passed the Assembly Human Services Committee by a vote of 5 to 0 on May 6, 2003.

**County-sponsored AB 1153 (Bermudez)**, which would criminalize the unlawful or unauthorized use, manufacture or sale of any official State, county, city, city and county or agency badge and/or associated photographic identification cards, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a 24 to 0 vote and will now go to the Assembly floor.

**County-sponsored AB 1469 (Negrete-McLeod)**, which would authorize the court to grant a reasonable continuance not to exceed 10 days if a report is not provided to the parties within a reasonable time before the dependency hearing, passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee on May 6, 2003 by a 10 to 0 vote and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SB 2 (Burton)**, which would create an employer based universal health care coverage plan, and **County-supported SB 921 (Kuehl)**, which would establish a single-payer based universal health care coverage plan, passed the Senate Insurance Committee on May 1, 2003, on votes of 6 to 3 and 5 to 3, respectively. SB 2 and SB 921 are scheduled to be considered by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on May 7, 2003.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:MS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Local 660  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations

Each Supervisor  
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Buddy Program Participants